Government also accorded in principle approval for considering the write off of Government of India loans and interest liabilities of FCIL and HFCL subject to submission of fully tied up proposals.

Pursuant to above decisions, in the first meeting of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, it was decided to appoint Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a premier fertilizer consultancy organization under the Department of Fertilizers for asset evaluation in respect of various closed units including Talcher unit. Further, financial consultants have also been appointed by PDIL in coordination with the Companies for examining the various possible options for revival of each of these units including the Talcher unit. The report of the consultants is yet to be received.

Since the options for revival of Talcher unit are currently under examination, no decision for transfer of this unit to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been taken by the Government. Further, Union Government is not in receipt of any memorandum or request letter from the State Government to restart the Talcher unit of FCIL.

Touts controlling waitlisted ticket confirmation quota

*39. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various quotas under which waitlisted tickets are confirmed;

(b) the number of waitlisted tickets confirmed under various quotas in Northern Railway during the last four months till date, quota-wise and class-wise;

(c) whether ticket confirmation under various quotas by Railway Board is under control of middlemen;

(d) if not, the reasons why tickets are not confirmed against the requisition of MPs and whether any enquiry would be conducted into the said issue and whether officials of Railway Board found guilty will be punished; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Waitlisted tickets are normally confirmed against the cancellation of already confirmed tickets, through Emergency Quota and release of various unutilised quotas provided in the trains *viz.* Tatkal Quota, Defence Department Quota, Out Station Quota, Foreign Tourist Quota, Senior Citizen Quota, Parliament House Quota etc.

(b) As some of the waitlisted tickets get confirmed against various quotas, cancellations, and passengers not turned up, separate data of waitlisted tickets getting confirmed under various quotas is not feasible to be maintained zone-wise and class-wise due to very large number of trains operating every day.

(c) No, Sir. Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of high official requisition holders, which includes Central/State Government Ministers, Judges of Supreme Court of India, High Courts of various States and MPs/MLAs/VIPs, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as High Official Requisition (HOR) Quota in different trains and in different classes. The HOR quota is released in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. While other requests forwarded by MPs are generally complied with but, sometimes, due to excessive demand, sometime, it is difficult to accommodate all such requests.

Specific cases of misuse of quota are enquired into and officials responsible are taken up.

Capital investment in SMEs

†*40. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small and Medium Scale Industries constitute 39 per cent of the total manufacturing production;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 85 per cent of industrial units of the above said sector are not using modern technology; and

(d) if not, the details in this regard and the average capital investment in small and medium scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The share of micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector in the total manufacturing production of the country during 2006-07 (latest estimates) estimated on the basis of the 3rd All India Census (2001-02) of small scale industries is 38.56 per cent. Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006, information in respect of share in the total manufacturing production of the country for medium enterprise sector for this period is not available.

(c) On the basis of the above Census for the year 2001-02, it is estimated that about 88 per cent of the units were dependent on traditional technology/skills.

(d) It is estimated that the average investment in the micro and small enterprise sector in the country for the year 2006-07 (latest estimates) was Rs. 1.61 lakh.

Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.